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Advocate of Peace.

VOL. LXX.

BOSTON, MARCH, 1908.

No. 3

THE AMERICAN PEACE SOCIETY,
PUBLISHERS,
31 BEACON STREET, BOSTON, MASS.

MONTHLY, ONE DOLLAR PER YEAR. TEN CENTS PER COPY
Entered at the Boston Post Office as Second Class Matter.

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The Direct Fruit of War.

One of the worst and most unexpected fruits of the Russo-Japanese war is the spirit of suspicion and vituperation toward Japan which has been so widely and shamefully manifested within the last three or four months in this country. For that is what, in the last analysis, it really is—the fruit of that war. The very nature of war is to create further strife and division, and to spread the flames of suspicion, contention and hatred into new fields.

No one can ever tell, when a war breaks out, where its evil results will fall most heavily. Not a man would have believed it possible, when the war with Spain was begun ten years ago, that it would end in the over-running and merciless crushing and subjugation of the Philippines by the armies of the United States. So the idea would have been scouted, when Japan was in the terrible struggle with Russia in Manchuria and carried with her the almost universal sympathy of the people of this country, that before two years had passed there would be among us a lot of wild, reckless talk of war with her, accompanied by the most unblushing falsification and calumny.

But this incredible thing has actually taken place. What has been the prime cause of it? Nothing else than Japan's startling defeat of Russia. But for this the San Francisco school affair would not have

created a ripple. Before this school affair occurred, talk was becoming frequent among certain of our citizens that Japan's head had been turned, that her victory had made her conceited and ambitious of further warlike exploits, that she would soon want to turn her victorious armies and fleets against somebody, and that she was beginning to look with lustful eyes on the Philippines and Hawaii. The San Francisco episode, in which Japan asked nothing except that simple human justice be done to her citizens coming here, gave this growing spirit of suspicion and calumny, on the part of the strife hunters and the navy promoters, an opening fully to vent itself, and the outcome has been one of the most humiliating and disgraceful phenomena to which we have been treated for many a day.

As to the facts about Japan and the amazement and pain which she has experienced by reason of what has been calumniously said and written in this country about her, we refer our readers to an extended article in this number entitled "The Truth About Japan," most of which is taken from recent utterances of Rev. John DeForest, for thirty-three years a missionary in Japan, who knows the spirit of the Japanese people as probably no other American does.

What we are trying here to impress is, that this calumny and reckless talk of war is in part the logical penalty which Japan has had to pay for her war against Russia. In spite of all the efforts of her "Elder Statesmen" and responsible public men to the contrary, the war with its dramatic victories produced among her people enough of the boastful, clamorous spirit of war to affect badly certain newspapers and sections of the people, and these vented themselves now in one direction, now in another, the United States betimes coming in for her share of the abuse and threats.

Everything possible has been done, in season and out of season, by the Japanese government and responsible public men, to suppress this spirit of violence and resentment at home; but it got noised abroad in this country that such a spirit was expressing itself among certain sections of the Japanese people and papers, and the effect has been like that of fire touched to a tinder box. The imaginations of our war-mongers and big-navy promoters became inflamed, and they have magnified and terribly exaggerated—inexcusably and wickedly exaggerated—what was going on in Japan, until it has become

necessary for our public men—the President, Mr. Root, Mr. Taft, Ambassador Reid and others,—openly to reprimand and “stamp on” these calumnious, mischievous utterances, in order to prevent the tie of sincere friendship which has always bound Japan to us from being severed.

It has been a painful spectacle all round, but it has been the natural, inevitable fruit of war, whose spirit of discord has no respect for race, or boundaries, or ties even of kindred and the deepest and most sacred friendship. Happily other forces, the forces of reason, good sense and conscience, have been acting too, and it is cause of rejoicing that these are saving us from what might easily have become a great and appalling calamity.

The New Arbitration Treaties.

The failure of the Hague Conference to agree upon a general treaty of obligatory arbitration has not seriously interfered with the steady progress of the movement for the general application, under treaty stipulation, of arbitration to the settlement of controversies between nations. Under the circumstances, of course, the movement is forced still to make its way in a fragmentary and irregular manner. But it goes forward, nevertheless, under the impulsion of its own previously acquired momentum, and there is not the least reason to doubt that it will reach its consummation in due time. Indeed, it has already won its case, and any further question about it is one of detail only.

The new treaty with France, negotiated by Secretary Root, was ratified by the United States Senate, in secret session, on February 19. In an interview with the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, Mr. Root stated that the governments with whom Secretary Hay had signed treaties—the treaties which failed to go into effect because of disagreement between the President and the Senate—had consented to change them so as to meet the views of the Senate. All these modified treaties will, then, shortly be sent to the Senate for ratification, and it is understood that Secretary Root will negotiate similar treaties with the other nations. The President has, of course, waived objection to the Senate's point of view, as otherwise no treaties could be concluded.

The substance of the treaty with France is contained in the following articles:

“Differences which may arise of a legal nature or relating to the interpretation of treaties existing between the two contracting parties, and which it may not have been possible to settle by diplomacy, shall be referred to the Permanent Court of Arbitration established at The Hague by the Convention of July 29, 1899, provided, nevertheless, that they do not affect the vital interest, the independence or the honor of the two contracting States and do not concern the interest of third parties.

“In each individual case the high contracting parties,

before appealing to the Permanent Court of Arbitration, shall conclude a special agreement defining clearly the matter in dispute, the scope of the powers of the arbitrators and the periods to be fixed for the formation of the arbitral tribunal and the several stages of the procedure. It is understood that on the part of the United States such special agreements will be made by the President of the United States, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, and on the part of France they will be subject to the procedure required by the constitutional laws of France.”

At first thought it may appear that little is gained by such a treaty, which is only a general agreement to make a special agreement to submit to arbitration certain kinds of controversy that may arise. But in reality it has great moral force. It is a public pledge on the part of the whole nation, through the treaty-making power, to submit certain of its controversies with the other power to the International Court of Arbitration which it has assisted in creating. The fact that the submission will have to be passed upon by the Senate as well as the President is not likely to change the ultimate result, except in the remotest possible contingency.

Remonstrances Against the Increase of the Navy.

The vigorous remonstrances against the further increase of the navy which have been signed and sent to Congress from different parts of the country have revealed clearly the rapidly growing strength of the opposition to the big navy policy which has become more and more aggressive and insistent at Washington. The following protest was sent from Boston on February 20, signed by one hundred and thirty-two of the clergymen of the city and vicinity, and eight other Boston ministers have since sent in their signatures:

“We, whose names are undersigned, ministers of religion of the city of Boston and vicinity, voicing, as we believe, the sentiments of large numbers of American citizens, respectfully express to you our earnest hope that the present Congress will not go further in what seems to us the needless and hazardous enlargement of the United States navy. Believing that America should be the leader among the peacemakers of the earth, we cannot but look with regret and alarm on the further multiplication of battleships, not only because of the disastrous influence which this is likely to have upon the temper and fortunes of our own people, but because it is well-nigh certain, through its stimulation of the spirit of rivalry in other countries, to retard the limitation and reduction in the armaments of nations, for which a sorely burdened world has long been waiting.”

Among the signers are many of the most eminent ministers of the city, Protestant, Catholic and Jewish. The New York clergymen's protest is as follows, signed by about three hundred of the ministers of the city and